

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 7, 2003. Claims 24-59 are presented for examination, of which Claims 24, 31-33, 40-42, 49-51, 58, and 59, the independent claims, have been amended to define Applicant's invention more clearly. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

As an initial matter, a Claim To Priority and a certified copy of the priority document for this application were submitted on December 30, 1999, as evidenced by the returned receipt postcard bearing the date stamp of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, a copy of which is attached. Applicant respectfully requests acknowledgment of the claim for foreign priority and the receipt of the certified copy. For the Examiner's convenience, a copy of the Claim To Priority and a copy of the cover page and drawings from the priority document also are attached.

The Office Action states that Claims 24-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,995,718 (*Hiraike et al.*). Applicant submits that independent Claims 24, 31-33, 40-42, 49-51, 58, and 59, together with the claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from *Hiraike et al.* for at least the following reasons.

As discussed in detail in the specification, in conventional print environments, especially printing systems having a plurality of host computers and printers interconnected, it is difficult to recognize in which printer font data has been downloaded. In such environments, there is a restriction that only the host computer that downloaded font data to a printer can use the font data, or that each host computer on a network must first obtain confirmation from a

printer via the network that font data has been downloaded before a host computer can use the downloaded font data. Such restrictions render the conventional printing systems inefficient.

The present invention, as defined by the independent claims, relates to a printing system that solves the above problems by using updated font registration information to identify font data downloaded to a printer.

An aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 24 is directed to a host computer that communicates both with a management apparatus and a printing apparatus via a network. The management apparatus manages fonts.

The host computer includes a reference unit, a font registration unit, and a transmission unit. The reference unit refers to font registration information retained in the management apparatus. The font registration information includes information specifying a font. The font registration unit downloads font data to the printing apparatus for registration. The transmission unit transmits registration information to the management apparatus, so that the font registration information retained in the management apparatus may be updated based on the registration information. The registration information indicates the font data downloaded by the font registration unit. The font registration information is used when the font data is downloaded to the printing apparatus by the font registration unit.

An important feature of Claim 24 is that the host computer downloads font data to the printing apparatus, and updates the font registration information retained in the management apparatus when the font data is downloaded. In particular, the transmission unit transmits registration information, indicating the font data downloaded by the font registration

unit, to the management apparatus based on the registration information where the font registration information is used when the font data is downloaded to the printing apparatus by the font registration unit. Use of the registration information to update the font registration information can avoid redundant downloading to the printing apparatus of font data. That is, the host computer can easily determine whether a desired font data has already be downloaded to the printing apparatus by another host computer when the font registration information has been updated by the registration information.

Hiraike et al. relates to an information processing apparatus connected to a printer to perform printing based on an inputted command. *Hiraike et al.* discloses that a registration management table 5000, provided in a host computer, stores a character code and the size of data stored in the printer (see column 7, line 54, to column 8, line 2). A Registration ID, shown in Fig. 10, identifies a registered character (see column 7, lines 45-47).

Hiraike et al. also discloses that, in a case in which a same character is printed again, the host computer is only required to resend the registration ID to the printer, not bit-map data (see column 8, lines 34-36). As shown in Fig. 16, however, only the host computer that executed the downloading is allowed to update its own registration management table. That is, other host computers do not know the results of a table-update operation executed by the host computer.

Nothing in *Hiraike et al.* is believed to show or suggest a host computer that includes "a transmission unit adapted to transmit registration information, indicating the font data downloaded by said font registration unit, to the management apparatus so as to updated the font

registration information retained in the management apparatus, based on the registration information, wherein the font registration information is used when the font data is downloaded to the printing apparatus by said font registration unit," as recited in Claim 24.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 24 is clearly patentable over *Hiraike et al.* Independent Claims 31-33, 40-42, 49-51, 58, and 59 include a feature similar to that discussed above, in which registration information indicating a downloaded font is transmitted to a management apparatus in order to update font registration information retained in the management apparatus. Therefore, those claims also are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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